(c) the categories of officers and employees whose payments have been increased?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) On the basis of results derived through conduct of Annaul Survey of Industries, the wages/salaries per man-day worked in Industries (at 3 digit Level of National Industrial Classification — 1998) at all India level worked out to be Rs. 148.86 during 2000-01 (latest available), which is higher by 7.80 per cent as compared to Rs. 138.09 during 1999-2000. The increase in wages/salaries during the period in the Public Sector, Joint Sector and Private Sector was 22.37 percent, 12.29 percent and 6.26 percent respectively. The categories of workers, except children, witnessed increase in wages/salaries during 2000-01.

The wages/salaries in different countries as published in Year Book of Labour Statistics or Bulletin of Labour Statistics by International Labour Organization are given in their currencies and for different periods i.e., hours, daily, weekly, monthly basis etc. and sectors of employment as well as wages/salaries are defined differently. Thus, the wages/salaries are not comparable amongst countries of the Asia Pacific region.

Financial Assistance for Roads

*251. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government had stopped financial assistance to several States for road construction and maintenances for not adhering to the loading norms for goods transport vehicles;

(b) if so, the names of States wo whom assistance has been stopped;

(c) the reaction of these States; and

(d) by when the assistance is likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) and (b) A decision was taken to withold the release of funds from the Central Road Fund (CRF) to seven states, namely, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh due to issue of special passes/tokens/

cards by these States which facilitated overloading of vehicles in violation of the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

(c) and (d) The Governments of Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have informed the Union Government that the sepcial passes/tokens/cards have been withdrawn and a decision has not been taken to release funds from the CRF to these States. A decision to resume the release of funds to the remaining States will depend on the response of these State Governments on this issue.

Payments to Sugarcane Farmers

*252. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has urged the State Chief Ministers to speed up payments to farmers before the next sugar season begins in October;

(b) if so, whether Government have decided to have second sugarcane package for the non-SAP States in addition to Rs. 609 crore assistance announced earlier in July 2003;

(c) whether Government have made it clear that Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Punjab still have the option of fixing the cane prices as they have not yet accepted the package doled out by the Centre; and

(d) to what extent it has been helpful to the cane growers in these States?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, the benefit of the second sugarcane package is available in respect of the cane price arrears of the 2002-03 sugar season of the sugar mills in the cooperative and public sectors in the States where the practice of State Adivsed Prices (SAP) of sugarcane is prevalent and for all sugar mills in those States, where no such practice exists.